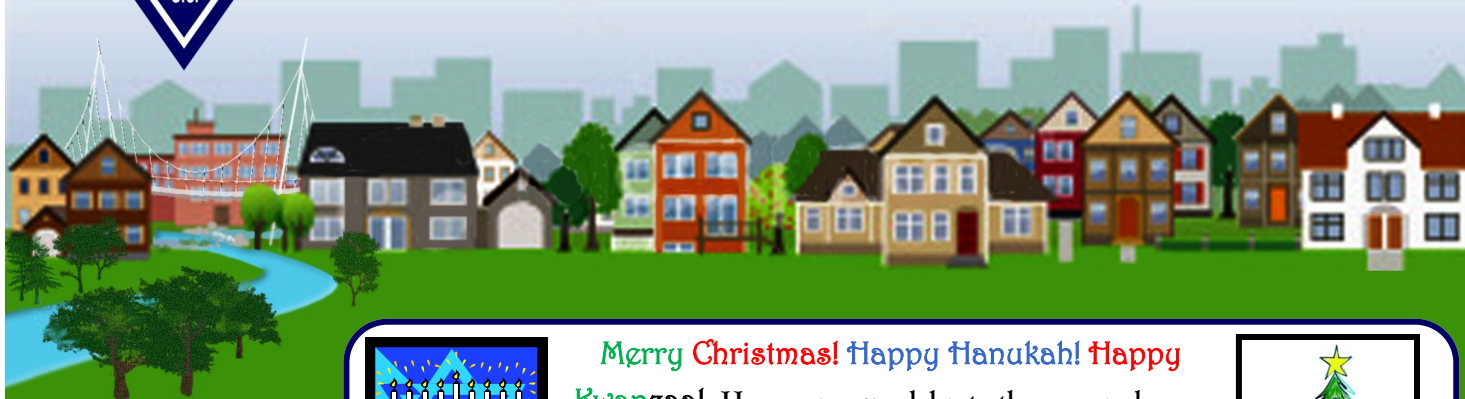




# Neighborhoods in the Know

## A GREENVILLE POLICE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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- Holiday Shopping Tips
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city of  
**greenville**



Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukah! Happy Kwanzaa! However you celebrate the season, have a wonderful holiday and be safe!



## Holiday Home Security Safety

During the year-end holidays, people are often busy, excited, and sometimes a little bit careless. The following holiday crime prevention tips for the home will help make the holidays safer and less appealing to the criminal “scrooge”:

- \* Keep all doors and windows locked, even if your step out for a moment.
- \* Inventory all valuables and appliances – record any serial and model numbers and keep in a safe place. Videotape or take photos of valuables as a record of ownership.
- \* Inspect all holiday lights for frayed wiring before your hang them.
- \* If you are using a ladder to hang holiday decorations, make sure it is properly secured.
- \* Beware of strangers coming to the door asking for charitable donations or soliciting. Ask for identification or documentation for proof. With the exception of local organizations, door-to-door sales are often fraudulent, and should be viewed with skepticism. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is. If you are uncomfortable with the individuals or if they become aggressive in their persistence, call our non-emergency number (271-5333) to have an officer respond to check the area. Help a charitable group you know. Confine your charitable giving to reputable established organizations, preferably those with a local branch.
- \* If you are going away for the holidays, make sure that any blinds are pulled to curb any unwanted “window shopping.” Put timers on your lights – have them connected to the lights you normally turn on and off. You should have your mail and any newspapers either stopped or have a neighbor pick them up. Also, extra patrol can be given to your property while you are away. Call our non-emergency number, 271-533, for this complimentary service.

## Holiday Shopping Tips



While out shopping for all your gifts this year, don't forget to take some of the following precautions to ensure you do not become a potential target for criminals: Always be aware of your surroundings. Look around as you head into the store and also when you are going to your vehicle.

- \* Shop before dark if possible.
- \* Try to coordinate shopping trips with friends.
- \* Lock your packages in your trunk. If you have an SUV with a pullover in the back, use it. Try not to make your packages visible by leaving them in the front or back seat.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use a credit/debit card or check when possible.
- \* Try not to be overburdened with packages.
- \* Always have your keys ready when heading to your vehicle.
- \* If possible, only carry your wallet instead of your purse. Before leaving home, put it in the trunk so it will not be visible in your car if left. Underneath your seat is not a good hiding place for your purse, book bag or computer bag.
- \* **Always lock your vehicle.** If you have an alarm system, use it.
- \* If shopping with kids, make sure that you teach them to go to a store clerk, security guard, or police officer if they become separated from you. Also, try to have an updated photo of the child in your wallet.

## Holiday Travel Safety

The following travel safety tips are important to remember when out and about not only during the holidays but anytime. Being observant and aware of both your driving and other drivers can help keep the roads safe and collision free.



- \* Always wear your seat belt.
- \* Make sure your windshield and mirrors are clear of frost, snow and ice and the driver's seat is positioned properly
- \* Plan ahead. Leave earlier than usual to allow extra time to reach your destination
- \* Keep a "winter emergency kit" in your car. It should include a flashlight, flares, jumper cables, snacks, extra gloves, hat, blanket, sand, a small shovel and boots. A warm sleeping bag is also a good idea.
- \* Carefully assess road and driving conditions when driving on unfamiliar roads. Be especially cautious on bridges and ramps.
- \* Drive at speeds appropriate for road conditions. Use "defensive" driving attitude and actions.



- \* Keep your distance from other autos and obstacles.
- \* In a skid situation, if your car is equipped with an Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) remember to maintain continuous pressure on your brakes. If your car does not have ABS, and you feel your car starting to skid, pump your brakes lightly. Turn your car to follow the direction of the skid to help maintain control.
- \* Be aware of pedestrians crossing the road and acknowledge all crosswalk signals. Also, *pedestrians* please be aware that you need to use the crosswalks provided when crossing the street and that you do not have the right of way outside of those designated crosswalks.

# Holiday Pet Safety

Of course you will want to include your furry companions in the festivities, but as you celebrate this holiday season, try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. And be sure to steer them clear of the following unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations:



- \* **Christmas Trees** – Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.
- \* **Decorations** – Cats love the sparkly, light-catching "toy" of tinsel because it's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel. Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies, can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a pet-safe bouquet. Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth.
- \* **Food and Candy** – Do not feed your pets chocolate. Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans. Fatty, spicy and no-no human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.
- \* **Candles** – Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!
- \* **Pet Space** – Give your pet their own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hub-bub.
- \* **New Year's Celebrations** – As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.

# Officers in Action

On Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Officers J.C. Wentzel and M. Callison responded to an active security alarm. They met with the victim who stated someone had removed a white Kenmore washer and dryer set from the unlocked back porch. The victim says she returned home from work and heard the security alarm as she arrived. While on patrol in the area, an individual was seen driving a pickup truck with a washer dryer set in the bed with snipped hoses. After checking model numbers, the victim confirmed the items were hers and the suspect was placed under arrest and charged with Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Possession of Stolen Goods.



# Upcoming Events



Every year the Festival illuminates downtown as one of the main holiday attractions for Greater Greenville. At a time when families are cutting back, St. Francis is pleased to offer complimentary family fun, while benefiting the Foundation's charitable causes. Hampton Inn & Suites at Riverplace, the Courtyard by Marriott and Piazza Bergamo will all host festive trees. Celebrated for 24 years, this event offers holiday magic and many surprises! The trees will be displayed all day starting November 25<sup>th</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup>.



On December 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 9 o'clock am at CU-ICAR, the Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell 5k run and a 1 mile fun run/walk is a community event in its truest sense. Teams of people from schools, churches, neighborhoods, civic groups and businesses come together to show support for those who battle this disease. Arthritis Walk events are held all over the United States and are the fastest growing walk events in the country. But the Arthritis Walk is more than just an event...it creates a sense of community that one can see and feel. It is like the world's largest support group. Even more than that, it serves as a statement that this community is serious about curing arthritis.



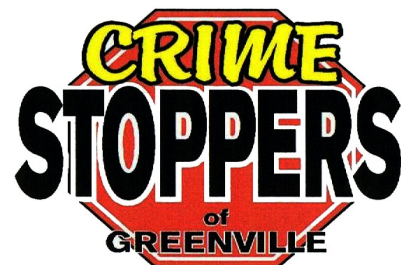
The City of Greenville sponsors Greenville's favorite tradition, the Greenville Poinsettia Christmas Parade. For more than 20 years, the parade has signaled the start of the Christmas season in Greenville. Each year the parade attracts thousands of visitors downtown to view the holiday floats and activities. The parade will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and will begin promptly at 6 o'clock pm.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Kroc Center Santa run will be held starting at 5 o'clock pm from County Square parking lot. 5 Mile fun run for recreational runners and walkers; everyone is encouraged to take part. The run will be through Falls Park and Cleveland Park.



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Emergency : 911  
Non-Emergency Police Dispatch & Information: 271-5333  
Greenville Police Tip Line: 271-GCPD (4273)  
Front Desk: 467-5258  
Victim Services: 467-5373  
Investigations: 467-5342  
Uniform Patrol: 467-5325  
Special Events Coordinator: 467-5014  
City of Greenville Website: <http://www.greenvillesc.gov>  
Police Website: <http://www.police.greenvillesc.gov/>



23-CRIME OR 232-7463

 **greenville cares**  
Call 232-CARE or 232-2273